

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 IO-12 ACDA-19 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 EA-11 NEA-10 OMB-01 GAC-01 RSR-01 /162 W

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P R 241600 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4652

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN UNN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF UNN

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT UNN

AMCONSUL HAMBURG UNN

AMCONSUL MUNICH UNN

AMCONSUL STUTTGART UNN

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, GW

SUBJECT: GERMAN REACTION TO SECRETARY ROGER' S
ANNUAL FOREIGN POLICY REPORT

SUMMARY: THE SECRETARY' S ANNUAL FOREIGN POLICY REPORT
RECEIVED PROMINENT COVERAGE IN THE WEST GERMAN MEDIA
OVER THE WEEKEND, WITH MOST ATTENTION BEING GIVEN TO
ITS APPRAISAL OF GERMAN EASTERN POLICY. MANY
EDITORIALISTS SAW IN THE REPORT CONFIRMATION THAT THE
UNITED STATES INTENDED TO CONTINUE WITH THE MEASURED
PACE OF IMPROVED CONTACTS WITH THE EAST AND CONCLUDED
THAT THE BONN CONTRIBUTION TO THESE EFFORTS HAD BEEN
APPRECIATED IN WASHINGTON. END SUMMARY

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1. THE EUROPEAN SECTION OF THE SECRETARY'S REPORT WAS A TOP STORY IN THE WEST GERMAN PRESS OF APRIL 20 AND 21. MOST PAPERS CARRIED SUMMARIES OF THE REPORT IN PROMINENTLY PLACED FRONT PAGE ARTICLES; DESCRIPTIONS OF THE SECRETARY'S WORDS ALSO OCCUPIED IMPORTANT POSITIONS IN TV AND RADIO NEWSCASTS ON THOSE DAYS. ALMOST WITHOUT EXCEPTION, THE GERMAN PRESS PLACED GREATEST EMPHASIS ON SUPPORT GIVEN IN THE REPORT FOR THE EASTERN POLICY OF THE BRANDT/ SCHEEL GOVERNMENT. THE PRESTIGIOUS FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG TOPPED ITS FRONT PAGE REPORT WITH A HEADLINE READING: " WASHINGTON APPROVES BONN'S EASTERN POLICY WITHOUT RESERVATION." THE STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG NOTED: " FOREIGN MINISTER ROGERS CALLS BASIC TREATY A GREAT SUCCESS OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC."

2. IN ADDITION TO DETAILED MENTION OF THE PORTIONS ON GERMAN EASTERN POLICY, FACTUAL COVERAGE CONCENTRATED ON PORTRAYING PLANS OUTLINED BY THE SECRETARY FOR CONTINUATION OF THE U. S. POLICY OF SEEKING BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE EAST. ATTENTION WAS ALSO PAID TO THE DESCRIPTION OF INCREASED MILITARY CAPABILITY OF WARSAW PACT FORCES AND TO THE CLEAR CONFIRMATION OF THE INTENTION OF THE ADMINISTRATION TO MAINTAIN THE LEVEL OF AMERICAN TROOPS IN EUROPE. LESS COVERAGE WAS GIVEN TO PORTIONS OF THE REPORT DEALING WITH AMERICAN POLICIES IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD, ALTHOUGH SEVERAL ARTICLES DESCRIBED THE U. S. APPROACH TO THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT.

3. EDITORIAL COMMENT CONCENTRATED ON AN ANALYSIS OF BONN'S ROLE IN THE GENERAL OUTLINE OF AMERICAN POLICY OUTLINED IN THE REPORT. THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE (APRIL 21) NOTED: "(THE REPORT) PLACES GREAT IMPORTANCE ON GERMAN THEMES AND GIVES THE GERMAN CONTRIBUTION HIGH PRAISE WHICH IS COMPLETELY WITHOUT RESERVATION. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE OF THE (IMPORTANT SUCCESS' IN THE ' STUBBORN SEARCH FOR MODUS VIVENDII WITH THE GDR, THE BASIC TREATY.' THE REPORT CONFIRMS THE HIGH IMPORTANCE WHICH WASHINGTON PLACES ON ITS OWN CONTRIBUTION, THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT ON BERLIN. IT STATES ONCE AGAIN, WITHOUT IFS, ANDS OR BUTS THAT

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WEST BERLIN WILL FROM NOW ON BE REPRESENTED BY THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. IN THIS CONNECTION THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT ABOUT THE FACT THAT OUR INTEREST HERE IS NO LESS THAN THAT OF THE AMERICANS."

4. THE STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG USED RELEASE OF THE REPORT AS AN OCCASION TO PRESENT A COMMENT ON THE GENERAL

STATE OF EUROPEAN- AMERICAN RELATIONS, WRITTEN BY ITS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT JUERGEN KRAMER. RECALLING FOREIGN MINISTER SCHEEL' S RECENT ARTICLE ON THIS TOPIC (SEE BONN 5505), KRAMER NOTES THAT THE SECRETARY' S REPORT CONCENTRATES ON A THEME WHICH MUST NECESSARILY BE OF HIGH IMPORTANCE IN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN LEADERS THIS YEAR, I. E. HOW CAN NEW FORMS OF COOPERATION BE DEvised WHICH TAKE ACCOUNT BOTH OF THE DIVERSITY AND THE COMMONALITY OF INTERESTS BETWEEN THE AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN PARTNERS IN THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE? KRAMER QUOTES THE SECRETARY' S COMMENT THAT WHERE IN THE PAST, THE POLITICAL WELFARE OF THE WORLD WAS DEPENDENT ON THE STATE OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY, NOW THE AMERICAN SITUATION WAS TO AN INCREASING EXTENT DEPENDENT ON THE WELFARE OF OTHERS. THIS, HE CONCLUDES, IS A CLEAR INDICATION OF THE REALIZATION BY AMERICAN LEADERS THAT THEY CAN NO LONGER PROSPER WITHOUT THE ASSISTANCE OF THEIR ALLIES.

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5. AS KRAMER SEES IT, THE MAIN PROBLEM TO BE CONFRONTED

DURING THE " YEAR OF EUROPE" WILL BE THE FACT THAT WHILE THE EUROPEANS CONTINUE TO BE ALMOST TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON AMERICAN MILITARY PROTECTION, THEY CAN FACE THE UNITED STATES VIRTUALLY AS EQUALS IN THE FIELD OF TRADE. THIS SITUATION RAISES THE SPECTOR OF ANY SERIOUS AMERICAN- EUROPEAN DISCUSSION SOON DISINTEGRATING INTO PETTY QUARRELS OVER THE RELATIVE VALUE OF EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE MILITARY, FINANCIAL AND TRADE FIELDS.

6. DIE WELT ALSO ASSIGNED THE TASK OF ANALYZING THE SECRETARY' S REPORT TO ITS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT, HEINZ BARTH. BARTH ATTEMPTED TO REMOVE AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY FROM ITS EUROPEAN CONTEXT AND ARGUED THAT WHAT THE REPORT REALLY PORTRAYED WAS A RETURN BY
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THE UNITED STATES TO A BALANCE OF POWER STRATEGY WHICH CONCENTRATED ON RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND CHINA. BARTH COMMENTED: " EVERYTHING ELSE, INCLUDING BONN' S EASTERN POLICY, WHICH RELIEVED AMERICA OF THE MAIN PART OF ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR GERMANY AS A WHOLE, AND THE BERLIN AGREEMENT, IN WHICH WASHINGTON PERCEIVES A STRENGTHENING OF THE SECURITY OF WEST BERLIN, IS DIPLOMATIC OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT WHICH AIDED IN COMPLETION OF THE DECISIVE DEVELOPMENTS WHICH WERE ACCOMPLISHED IN THE TRIANGLE -- U. S., USSR, CHINA."

7. HOWEVER, BARTH DOES NOT SEE IN THIS CONCENTRATION ON RELATIONS WITH THE OTHER BIG POWERS AN AMERICAN READINESS TO MAKE FURTHER CONCESSIONS IN ITS GERMAN POLICY. ON THE CONTRARY, HE NOTES THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT IS REMARKABLY VAGUE ON THE QUESTION OF RELATIONS WITH THE GDR, LEAVING OPEN JUST WHEN IN 1973 FURTHER CONTACTS WITH EAST GERMANY WILL BE UNDERTAKEN. IN BARTH' S VIEW, " THIS CONFIRMS THE IMPRESSION WHICH WAS GIVEN DURING THE BARZEL VISIT IN WASHINGTON, THAT THE UNITED STATES WANTS TO ALLOW TIME FOR THE QUESTION OF REPRESENTATION OF WEST BERLIN IN THE UNITED NATIONS BY THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC TO BE SETTLED IN A CLEAR AND IRREVOCABLE FASHION."

8. DUE TO THE ABSENCE FROM BONN OF SENIOR GOVERNMENT AND PARTY OFFICIALS OVER THE LONG EASTER WEEKEND, THERE HAS SO FAR BEEN NO OFFICIAL COMMENT ON THE REPORT. AS THEY RETURN TO BONN IN COMING DAYS, HOWEVER, WE WOULD EXPECT TO HAVE THEIR REACTIONS. HILLENBRAND.

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